

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF WARMINSTER TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the township of Warminster, Pennsylvania, upon the celebration of its 300th anniversary.

The township derives its name from the town of Warminster, in Wiltshire, England. Warminster is the twin township of Southampton, Pennsylvania, which lies immediately southeast and adjoining. It is also bounded by the townships of Northampton, Warwick, and Warrington, all of which lie in my Congressional district, the 8th District of Pennsylvania. To this day, Warminster has the same limits as when originally laid out, with an area of over six thousand and ninety-nine acres.

Warminster was one of the earliest townships settled in America, with roots tracing all the way back to the 17th century. John Hart and John Rush were among the most prominent early settlers in Warminster, both arriving shortly after William Penn in the latter part of the 17th century. Combined, Hart and Rush owned over one thousand acres of land in the Warminster area. They, along with many other early settlers and statesman, helped to foster growth in Warminster by aiding in road and church construction, and farm development, thus laying the groundwork for the beautiful township of Warminster.

Many years later, Warminster became a refuge for American soldiers during the Revolutionary War, at the battle of Crooked Billet. In the skirmish action, British forces launched a surprise attack against Brigadier General John Lacey and three regiments of Pennsylvania militia, forcing them to retreat into the farms in Warminster.

During the wake of WWII, Warminster also became the home of one of the largest naval modification units in the area. At the Naval Air Development Center in Johnsville, large quantities of aircraft parts were modified for use in the war, and progress was made on the development of guided missiles. The NADC also played a critical role in training mercury astronauts and establishing the United States as the world leader in technology and space exploration. During the cold war era, the NADC employed over 2600 people, including 1600 scientists and engineers, and 300 members of the military.

With such a rich history, it is clear that Warminster Township deserves much recognition and praise. I am honored to represent the people of Warminster Township, and wish them all the best on this momentous occasion.

LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN, YASHAR ALIYEV

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, as co-chairmen of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, Congressman BILL SHUSTER of Pennsylvania and I would like to bring a letter to the attention of our House colleagues that we received from the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Yashar Aliyev.

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Washington, DC.

Hon. DAN BOREN,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BOREN, I am writing to express my concerns of the reports that on September 13, 2011 the so-called "Office of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic in the USA", the Embassy of Armenia to the United States and major Armenian-American organizations are organizing event on the premises of the U.S. Congress, dedicated to the so-called "20th Anniversary of Independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic". According to the news reports Mr. Ashot Ghulian, who presents himself as the "Chairman of the NKR Parliament", will be visiting Washington D.C. and will be the keynote speaker at the event.

In this regard, I draw your attention to the fact that so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" is a self-proclaimed entity created on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, supported by Armenia and essentially is under its direction and control. It is entirely unrecognized as such, even by Armenia.

As a result of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict hundreds of thousands of the Azerbaijanis were expelled from the Nagorno-Karabakh region and surrounding territories of Azerbaijan. Four UN Security Council resolutions adopted in 1993 following the armed seizure of Azerbaijani territory reaffirm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, demand immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all occupied regions.

By engaging in public campaigns using the Congress premises the agents of the separatist regime pursue the goal of distracting the attention of the Members of Congress and broad American public from the continued occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan by the Armenian armed forces, accompanied by gross violation of human rights of hundreds of thousands of the Azerbaijani IDPs. Their ultimate goal is to consolidate the occupation of these territories and to prevent return of the displaced Azerbaijani population to their homes and properties from which they were forcibly expelled.

Allowing organization of such activities on American soil encourages the Government of Armenia to hold on to its uncompromised position in peace negotiations and complicates the already difficult settlement

process. Participation of Members of Congress in these events may be qualified as support for the separatist regime and negatively affects the honest broker image of the United States as a Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group tasked to find just and peaceful solution to the conflict.

Azerbaijan is an important strategic partner of the United States. Azerbaijan provides multi-faceted support for U.S. operations in Afghanistan and remains a steadfast supporter of Israel. Our two countries cooperate on counterterrorism and nonproliferation issues. Moreover, Azerbaijan greatly contributes to the energy security of the United States and Europe.

I ask you to refrain from participating in this event that is directed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, a key ally of the United States in the strategic Caspian region and to voice your opposition to using Capitol grounds for such activities.

Sincerely,

YASHAR ALIYEV,
Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

IN RECOGNITION OF NICHOLAS CARL GOTTUSO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Police Captain Nicholas Carl Gottuso, "Nick," for his 32 years of service with the Hillsborough Police Department.

Captain Gottuso began his career in law enforcement in 1976 as a Dispatcher for San Mateo County Communication. In 1980 he was hired by the Pacifica Police Department as a Patrol Officer, where he served for two years. In January 1983 he was hired by the Town of Hillsborough as a Police Office, promoted to Corporal in 1990, Inspector in 1992, Sergeant in 1993, Lieutenant in 1999, Police Commander in 2002 and achieved the rank of Police Captain that same year. During Captain Gottuso's employment with the Hillsborough Police Department, he trained as a Field Training Officer, a Background Investigator, and a Traffic Investigator; and he served as the Head Range master and was responsible for the selection and designation of a standardized firearm, the Beretta 92F.

Captain Gottuso proved to be invaluable to his community as both a field agent and an administrator. He was one of the Founding Commanders of the North Central Regional SWAT Team, served as a Sniper Team Commander and led and participated in dozens of successful operations, many of which led to the capture of criminals and the saving of innocent lives.

As a police captain, Captain Gottuso responded to numerous bank robberies and other active shooter incidents. Time and again, Captain Gottuso put his life on the line for the residents of Hillsborough, and the community will forever be indebted to him for his bravery, selflessness, and competence.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Even when Captain Gottuso wasn't on the front lines, he worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Hillsborough's residents, as well as the lives of the men and women serving our country abroad. Gottuso worked with overseas Unit Commanders during his time as the administrator of the Adopt-a-Troop program, a non-profit organization that sends much-needed care packages to our troops fighting overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2004, I worked closely with Captain Gottuso to redesignate the Eugene A. Doran Memorial Bridge which spans the scenic Crystal Springs Dam on I-280 in San Mateo County. The bridge was named after the slain Hillsborough police officer and we passed a California Senate Resolution to include Officer Doran's son who died in the line of duty in Vietnam. The Bridge was renamed the Officer Eugene and Marine Lance Corporal Patrick M. Doran Memorial Bridge.

Despite Captain Gottuso's extensive service on the front lines of law enforcement, he never lost his sense of humor or desire to entertain. Captain Gottuso's ability to lighten the mood delighted generations of schoolchildren during police presentations. His yearly narration of the K-9 squad demonstration made it a truly enjoyable and memorable event for anyone who witnessed it.

Nicholas Carl Gottuso was born in Ft. Carson, Colorado in 1954 and attended Mills High School in Millbrae, California. In his spare time he enjoys boating, karate, flying, coaching soccer and he is an avid Marksmanship advocate.

In 1991 he married his wonderful wife Paulette and they are the proud parents of Dominic, Marisa, Nicolette and Samantha.

Captain Gottuso's dedication to public safety, effective enforcement of the law, record of bringing criminals to justice and protecting innocent life and property while maintaining the highest level of professionalism and an infectious sense of humor all warrant special gratitude and recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of this body to join me in honoring Nicholas Gottuso upon his retirement for his dedication to public service at the Hillsborough Police Department.

EMPOWERING PARENTS THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 13, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2218) to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act, H.R. 2218, which is a bipartisan bill to reform and strengthen the charter school program.

I recently gave the graduation speech at the Princeton Charter School, a high quality charter that opened its doors more than a decade ago and was recognized as a blue ribbon school by the U.S. Department of Education in 2004. And I was pleased to see the success

there. But I urged them to make sure they are well-integrated in the public school system in their community.

We need to reinvigorate America's education system and give each and every child the opportunity to learn and thrive. I am an advocate of alternative forms of education including charter schools. I think these institutions can be viable and beneficial in promoting academic achievement and diversity.

It is important to remember that charter schools are part of the public school system, and we must hold them to the same standards of broad educational access and same standards of accountability—which means we have to be willing to shut down charter schools that fail to meet expectations. Otherwise, charter schools are not true to their reason for being: to inject innovation and experimentation into the public school system. I am pleased that this bill increases accountability for charter schools and ensures states use a schools performance as a primary factor for charter renewal.

I have long believed that charter school innovations and best practices must be shared with other school districts—urban, rural, and suburban school districts alike. This requires work on both sides: outreach by the charter schools and acceptance by the traditional public school system to learn what there is to be learned. I worked with Rep. POLIS to include such language in his ALL-STAR Act.

That is why I am pleased that the bipartisan legislation before us today includes provisions to require charter schools to disseminate best practices with other public schools.

This legislation also ensures that States work with charter school authorizers to put in place the quality controls necessary for holding charter schools accountable, including annual performance data and financial audits. These provisions will lead to more replication of high-quality charter schools nationwide.

I share the concerns of some that more can be done to improve the accountability, equity and transparency of charter school, and as we continue to move this bill through the process, I hope additional improvements can be made. But we should all recognize that this bill makes a great deal of progress from the existing program and deserves our support today.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN AND MARY ANNE COX, AND JIM AND PAULETTE PHILLIPS, FOR THEIR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HEROES RUN/WALK

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary fortitude and abiding generosity of two sets of parents of fallen heroes.

John and Mary Anne Cox lost their son, Army Specialist Gregory Cox, in Iraq in September of 2004. Less than 2 years later, in February of 2006, Jim and Paulette Phillips lost their son, Marine Lance Corporal Steven Phillips, in the same war.

In the face of such horrific personal loss, the parents of Army Specialist Cox and Lance Corporal Phillips chose neither to languish in

their own sadness, nor make their own emotional convalescence the focus of their lives. Instead, in the spirit of the selflessness of their courageous sons, they chose to create an event devoted to enriching the lives of others.

The event, the annual Heroes Run/Walk, will take place for the fifth time this Saturday, September 17, 2011, at Green Cove Yacht Club in Millsboro, Pennsylvania. The majority of the proceeds from the event will benefit the memorial funds that have been established to honor the sacrifices of Specialist Cox and Lance Corporal Phillips. Specialist Cox's fund provides support to graduates of Greene County High Schools entering the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) or intending to pursue a field of study that will lead to a career in public service. Lance Corporal Phillips' fund provides support to the computer-aided technology drafting program at Greene County Career and Technology Center. Part of the proceeds from the Heroes Run/Walk will also be used to fund the transportation of veterans living in Greene County who are receiving treatment at the Veterans Affairs Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

Last year, the race's over 400 registrants raised in excess of \$15,000. Sponsors and organizers of the event expect a strong turnout again this Saturday, and are eager to once more honor the memory of Specialist Cox and Lance Corporal Phillips.

The Heroes Run/Walk is a testament to its founders, John and Mary Anne Cox, and Jim and Paulette Phillips, and demonstrates their capacity to turn tragedy into an amazing gift for others. They deserve both our support and appreciation.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANN BARLOW

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ann Barlow who served as president and chairperson of the board for the Professional Businesswomen of California for the last four years. Ann has been an inspirational and effective leader of PBWC which I founded 23 years ago to help women advance professionally. The board of directors is very fortunate to retain her as a member, but will certainly miss her gracious leadership.

Ann became involved with PBWC as soon as she moved from New York to the Bay Area in 2005. She happened to move in next door to the former president, Debra Boblitt, who immediately recognized Ann as a perfect candidate for the board. She was voted in as president two years later.

Ann possesses all the qualities and qualifications it takes to be a successful business woman; she is smart, creative, professional, funny, warm, beautiful and generous. She has lent her talents to Peppercom for the last ten years. She is a partner and the president of its West Coast operations and led the founding of GreenPepper, Peppercom's environmental sustainability services.

Before she joined Peppercom, Ann led the New York office of Interpublic Group-Owned Mindstorm Communications.

Ann is a master communicator and has written numerous articles and given many